

- **Roadway Capacity and Deficiencies:** The 2000 average daily traffic (ADT) on NC 184, south of Dobbins Road (SR 1337), was between 7,800 and 10,000 vpd, while the northern section had an average ADT of 9,600 vpd. The base year ADTs already exceed the current design capacities on NC 184 and the projected 2025 volumes will lead to further deterioration of the major thoroughfare. The present level of service (LOS) on the facility is E and will continue to be at LOS E, unless improvements are made. The traffic volume on the proposed NC 184 Alternate is 5,100 vpd.
- **Safety Issues:** Several accidents at the intersection of NC 184 and NC 194 have been documented. Many of the accidents have been angle or rear end collisions. NC 184 carries 4% trucks, while NC 194 carries 3%. The NC 184 Alternate will allow trucks not destined for the central part of the town to bypass the most congested area. The construction of this facility will decrease the traffic congestion, which will decrease the probability of accidents and decrease the number of trucks going through the town.
- **Social Demands and Economic Development:** The Town of Banner Elk is experiencing tremendous growth. The primary growth is contributed to residential construction. Both Beech Mountain and Banner Elk are resort towns that experience seasonal peaks in traffic volumes. Banner Elk also has Lees McRae College, which produces and attracts several trips. Although the 2-lane road is a limited controlled facility, new economic development will likely occur. To ensure that the integrity of the facility is kept, it has been suggested that the Town not allow sporadic development along the corridor, but limit the access as much as possible. If this doctrine is followed, the facility will move traffic efficiently, while also spurring economic development. Economic development will increase the tax base, which can be used to improve public services throughout Banner Elk.
- **System Linkage:** The Town of Banner Elk does not have an efficient roadway network as a result of terrain restraints. NC 184 is the only route that fully transverses the area north and south, while NC 194 is the only route traveling east and west. The lack of other north-south routes has caused the deterioration in the LOS on NC 184. This type of network forces all traffic traveling north or south onto NC 184. Banner Elk's roadway network also does not create good connectivity, nor allow for good maneuverability. However, the construction of the proposed facility will allow for an alternate north-south route.
- **Relationship to Other Plans:** This facility is not directly connected to any other thoroughfare plan.

NC 184 Widening

- **Project Recommendation:** It is recommended that NC 184 be widened from a two-lane road to a multi-lane facility beginning at the southern Banner Elk Urban Planning Boundary (BEUPB) and extending north to NC 194 (Main Street). Currently, NC 184 from NC 105 to NC 194 is programmed to be upgraded on the unfunded list of the 2004-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as R-2811.